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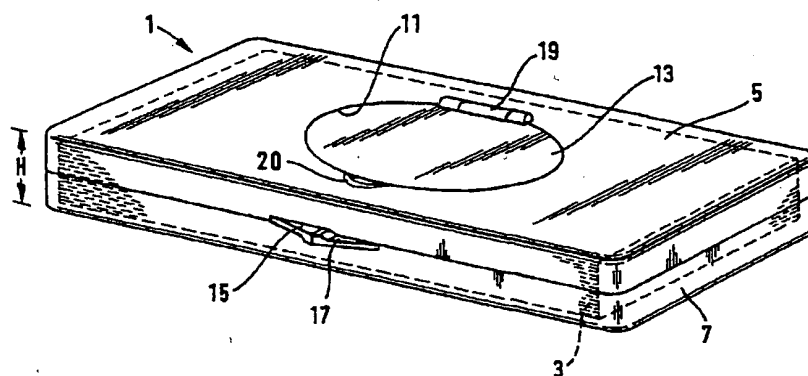
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(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

The invention relates to a container (1) of a relatively rigid material for containing a stack of moist wipes (3), the container having a bottom part (7) and an upper part (5), the parts being mutually connected by a hinge (9), the upper and the lower part being adapted for containing the moist wipes. The combined height of the upper and lower part is not higher than 5 cm, preferably not higher than 2.5 cm, the upper part comprising a dispensing aperture (11) and a lid (13) covering the dispensing aperture, the lid being hingingly connected to the upper part of the container.

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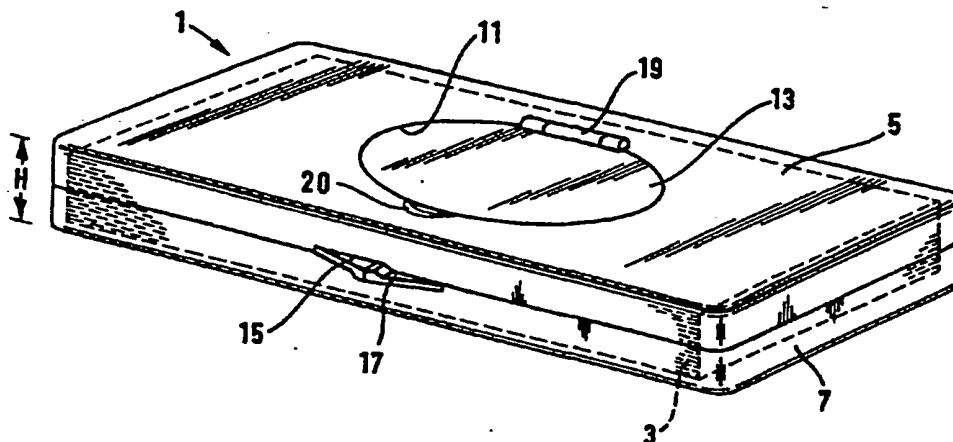
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(57) Abstract

The invention relates to a container (1) of a relatively rigid material for containing a stack of moist wipes (3), the container having a bottom part (7) and an upper part (5), the parts being mutually connected by a hinge (9), the upper and the lower part being adapted for containing the moist wipes. The combined height of the upper and lower part is not higher than 5 cm, preferably not higher than 2.5 cm, the upper part comprising a dispensing aperture (11) and a lid (13) covering the dispensing aperture, the lid being hingedly connected to the upper part of the container.

CONTAINER FOR MOIST WIPES

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Field of the Invention

The invention relates to a container of a relatively rigid material for containing a stack of moist wipes, the container having a bottom part and an upper part, the parts being mutually connected by a hinge, the upper and the lower part being adapted for containing the moist wipes.

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Background of the invention

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EP-A-0 247 031 discloses a flexible pack containing a stack of wet tissues. The pack comprises a relatively small dispensing aperture and an adhesive tab for sealingly closing the dispensing aperture.

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FR-A2 376 802 discloses a flexible pack comprising a stack of wet tissues, and a storage container. After removal of a label from the pre-formed dispensing aperture in the pack, the opened pack is placed inside the container. The container comprises a hinging cover.

30

US-A-4,244,493 discloses a cylindrical container for storing a roll of wet towels, comprising a cover and a dispensing device comprising a slit and a hole therein.

35

European Patent Application number 94107012.0, filed on May 05, 1994 in the name of The Procter & Gamble Company, discloses a container for containing a stack of wet wipes, the container comprising a tub having a lower part, and an upper part hingingly connected thereto. The upper part comprises a dispensing aperture which is covered by a hinging lid.

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It is thus an object of an aspect of this invention to provide a novel dispensing container which contains towелettes and which has a covering thereon so that towелettes may be dispensed upon opening of the covering.

5

It is a further object of an aspect of this invention to provide a novel dispensing container having a novel relationship between the cover and an opening for the dispensing of a product from within the container.

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More particularly, the invention resides in a package for presentation of a product upon a retail shelf comprising a container having an opening therein; a lid covering said opening; and a flexible adhesive substrate attached to said lid and said container for hinging said lid to said container.

15

The invention also resides in a package for presentation of a product upon a retail shelf comprising a bottom sheet; a thermoformed concave tray attached to said bottom sheet and defining therebetween a space adapted for placement of said product within said space; an opening in said concave tray and a lid covering said opening; and a flexible adhesive substrate attached to said lid and said concave tray for hinging said lid to said concave tray and printed indicia on said adhesive substrate.

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The invention further resides in a dispensing container for premoistened towелettes comprising a bottom sheet; a thermoformed concave tray attached to said bottom sheet and defining therebetween a space adapted for placement of said premoistened towелettes within said space; an opening in concave tray and a lid covering said opening; a flexible adhesive substrate attached to said lid and said concave tray for hinging said lid to said tray; and printed indicia on said adhesive substrate.

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In accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, a container of a relatively rigid material for containing a stack of moist wipes, the container having a bottom part and an upper part, the parts being mutually connected by a hinge, the upper and the lower part being adapted for

-3-

containing the moist wipes, wherein the combined height of the upper and lower part is not higher than 5 cm, the upper part comprising a dispensing aperture and a lid covering the dispensing aperture, the lid being hingingly connected to the upper part of the container.

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Figure 1 of the drawings is a perspective view of the dispensing container in accordance with this invention.

10 Figure 2 of the drawings is a perspective assembly view of the dispensing container according to this invention.

15 In accordance with this invention it has been found that a dispensing container may be provided when a novel relationship may exist between a thermoformed tray and a semirigid lid wherein the two parts are adhered together by a flexible substrate having printing thereon whereby the flexible substrate not only acts as a hinge adhering the two parts together but has printed indicia thereon to identify and label the product being dispensed. Various other advantages and features will become apparent from a reading of the following description given with reference to the drawings. It is 20 understood, however, that it is within the scope of this invention to include any container having an opening therein to be covered with a lid which is hinged thereto by an adhesive substrate which bears indicia to convey useful information regarding the product contained therein.

25

Figure 1 illustrates the dispensing container in accordance., with this invention comprising a thermoformed concave tray 3 having an opening 5 therein. The opening 5 is covered by a lid 7 which interlocks by

easily reach into the container, and provides a restrictive orifice for frictionally engaging the wipes upon dispensing, thus causing the wipes to unfold.

- 5 In another embodiment according to the invention, the upper and the lower parts of the container are integral. It is advantageous to form the upper and the lower part in a single injection moulding operation, the hinge material and the material of the upper and lower halves forming one piece. In a preferred embodiment, the upper and lower container parts have the same height.

Such containers normally tend to be relatively difficult to open, and will not stay open properly due to the resilient spring-back forces exerted by the one-piece hinge. Hence such constructions would normally be regarded as less suitable to contain wet wipes, as the dispensing of the wipes from such containers is impaired. In the present invention, this negative is overcome by the provision of an extra dispensing aperture in the top half of the container such that the container halves only need to be separated for placing a stack of wet wipes inside the container. Upon dispensing, the container halves can stay closed.

Brief description of the drawings

The present invention will be explained in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings. In the drawings:

Figures 1 - 3 show a perspective view of a container according to the invention in the storage position, the refill position and the dispensing position, respectively,

Figures 4 - 6 show an embodiment of a container according to the invention wherein the upper part, the lower part and the lid are integral,

Figure 7 shows the container of figures 4 - 6 in a flattened position, and

Figure 8 shows a cross-sectional view of an insert part carrying the lid, connected to the dispensing aperture.

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Detailed Description of the Invention

5 Figure 1 shows a container 1 according to the invention in its closed state. The container 1 has a height, H, which is between 2 cm and 5 cm. The container is filled substantially along its height H with wet wipes 3. The wipes 3 are stacked in an interleaved or non-interleaved array and are saturated with moisture. The moisture contents of a single wipe may for
10 instance be about 2.5 - 3 times the weight of the wipe in its dry state. A preferred lotion comprises about 95 % water and may further comprise skin care agents, perfume and cleaning agents. The upper part 5 of the container is connected to the lower part 7 via a hinge 9. The upper and lower parts may be separately formed parts, or may form, together with the
15 hinge 9, a single, integral structure. The container 1 is made of relatively rigid material, such as polyethylene or a polypropylene copolymer of a thickness of between 0.5 and 0.8 mm.

The term "relatively rigid" is intended to mean containers which are not
20 made of sheet material, such as the known flexible wrappers and which do not substantially deform upon handling.

The container 1 comprises two finger grips 15, 17 attached to the upper part 5 and lower part 7 respectively. The container can be opened for
25 placing the wet wipes inside by moving the finger grips 15 and 17 apart, as shown in figure 2.

The upper part 5 comprises a dispensing aperture 11 covered by a hinging lid 13. The hinging lid 13 may be connected to the upper part 5 via a hinge
30 19. Preferably the lid 13 is flush with the top surface of the upper part, and is accessible via a finger lift part 20 in the top surface of upper part 5. Upon dispensing of a tissue from the container 1, the upper and lower halves 5,7 remain closed, only the lid 13 being opened. Preferably, the dimensions of the dispensing aperture 11 are between about 10 x 6 cm,
35 such that a user can easily reach inside the container 1, and can also access the bottom most wipes. On the other hand, the dispensing aperture 11 is small enough to provide a restriction which causes the wipes to

unfold when they pass through the aperture by frictionally engaging the wipes. This will help to dispense only a single wipe at a time.

5 Proper frictional engagement of the dispensing aperture 11 with the wipes is especially important for wipes of a caliper of about 0.6 mm and a basis weight of about 60 g/m². Thinner wipes, for instance of a caliper of about 0.2 mm, will more easily unfold upon dispensing.

10 Figure 4 shows an alternative embodiment of a container according to the invention. In this case, the lid 13 is integrally formed with the upper part 5, and is connected to the upper part along a webbed hinge 19. The hinge line 19 is located on the opposite side of the hinge 9 of the upper and lower parts 5,7 as can be seen in figure 5. Hence the lid 13 hinges in a different direction than the upper part 5, such that there is no risk of
15 separating the upper and lower parts 5,7 upon opening of the lid 13.

Figure 6 shows the container 1 in a dispensing configuration. The dispensing aperture 11 extends across the full width of the upper half 5 for easy access to the wipes, but is of relatively narrow dimensions to form a
20 restrictive aperture for unfolding of the wipes.

Figure 7 shows a top plan view of the container of figures 4-6, in a flattened, two-dimensional state. The container 1 is formed from a single injection moulded piece. The webbed hinges 9 and 19 respectively
25 connect the upper and lower parts 5,7 and the upper part 5 and the lid 13.

Figure 8 shows a cross-sectional view of an embodiment wherein the upper part 5 of the container comprises a recessed section to which an insert part 21 is connected. The insert part 21 comprises the hinge 19 and
30 the lid 13.

Preferably, the container 1 is made of polypropylene, but other materials such as polyethylene can be used.

THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE
PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

1. A container of a relatively rigid material for containing a stack of moist
5 wipes, the container having a bottom part and an upper part, the parts being
mutually connected by a hinge, the upper and the lower part being adapted
for containing the moist wipes, wherein the combined height of the upper and
lower part is not higher than 5 cm, the upper part comprising a dispensing
aperture and a lid covering the dispensing aperture, the lid being hingingly
10 connected to the upper part of the container.
2. A container according to claim 1, wherein the combined height of the
upper and lower part is not higher than 2.5 cm.
- 15 3. A container according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the size of the
dispensing aperture is between 30 cm² and 90 cm².
4. A container according to claim 3, wherein the size of the dispensing
aperture is between 40 cm² and 80 cm².
- 20 5. A container according to any one of claims 1 to 4, the upper part, the
lower part and the lid being integral.
6. A container according to claim 5, wherein the lid is integral with the
25 upper and lower parts.
7. A container according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the upper
part and the lower part are substantially of the same height.
- 30 8. A container according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the surface
of the lid is substantially flush with the surface of the upper part.
9. A container according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the hinge of
the upper and lower part is located on a side of the container which is
35 opposite to the side where the hinge of the lid is located, the hinging direction
of the upper part with respect to the lower part being opposite to the hinging
direction of the lid with respect to the upper part.

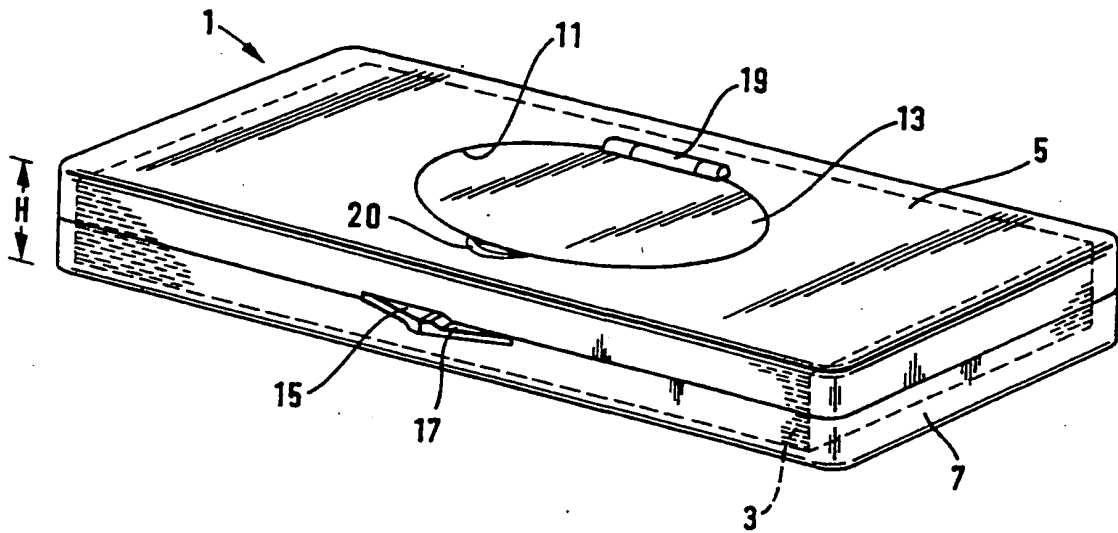


Fig. 1

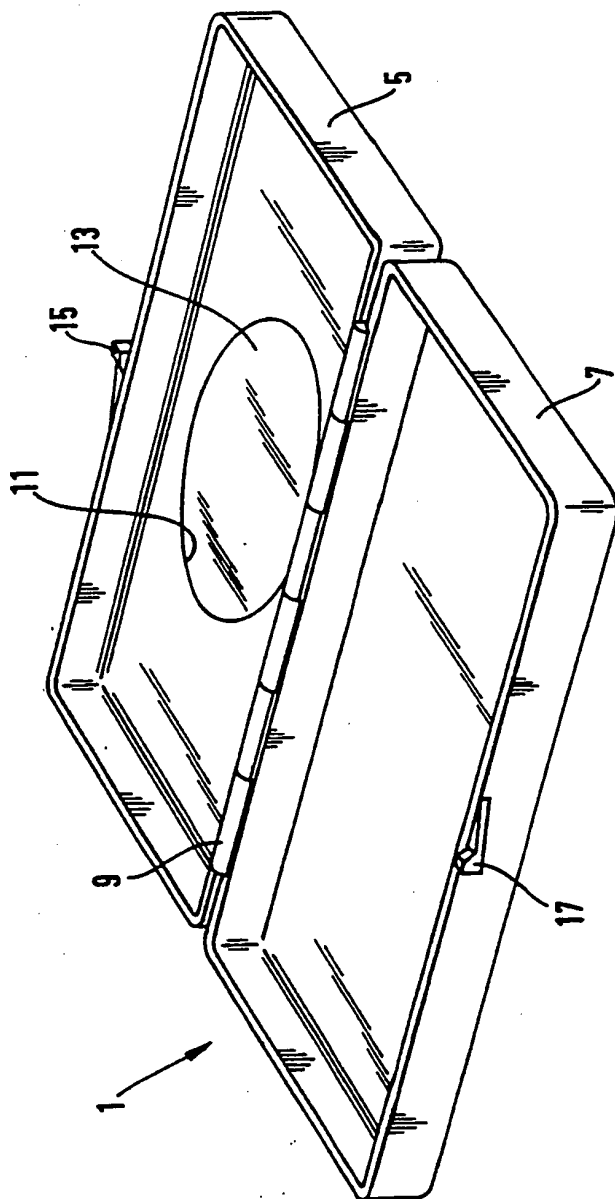


Fig. 2

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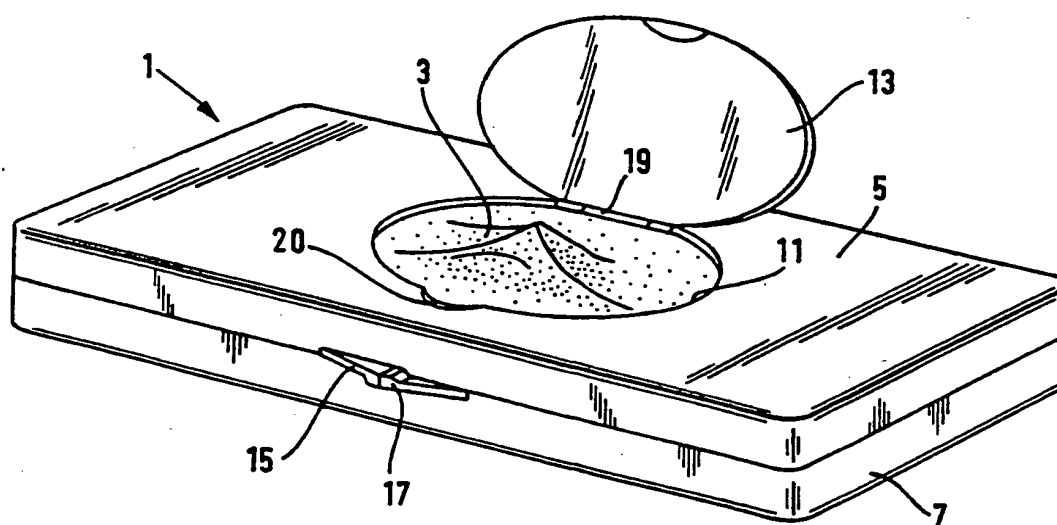
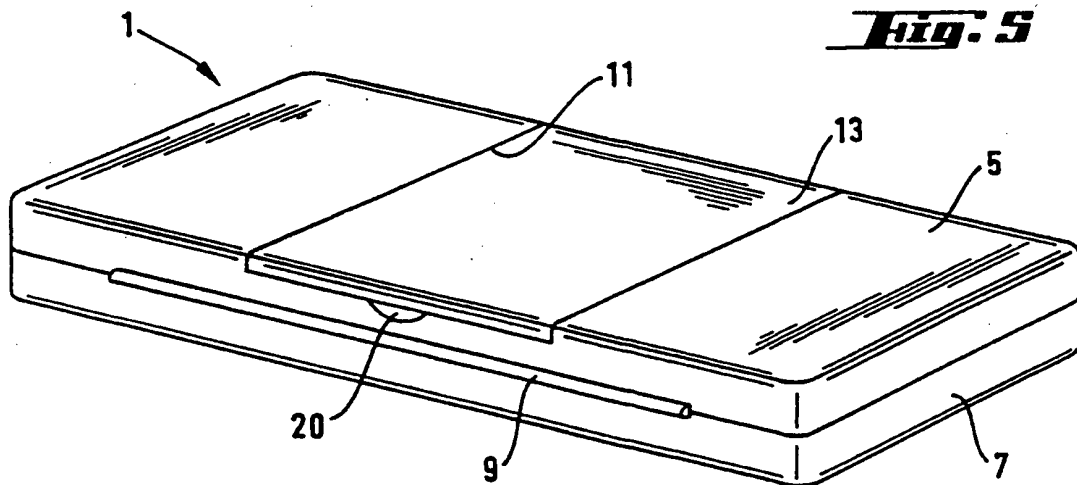
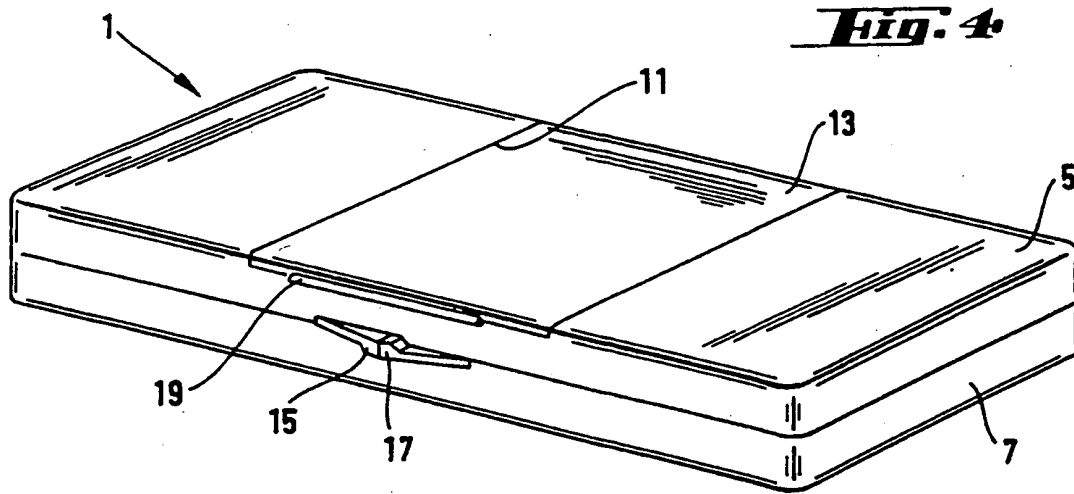


Fig. 3

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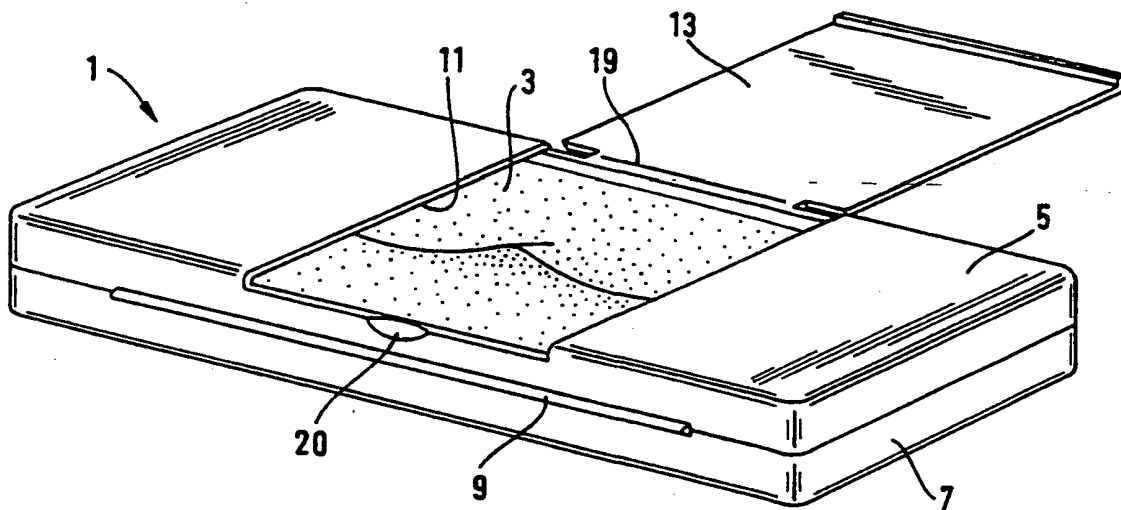


Fig. 6

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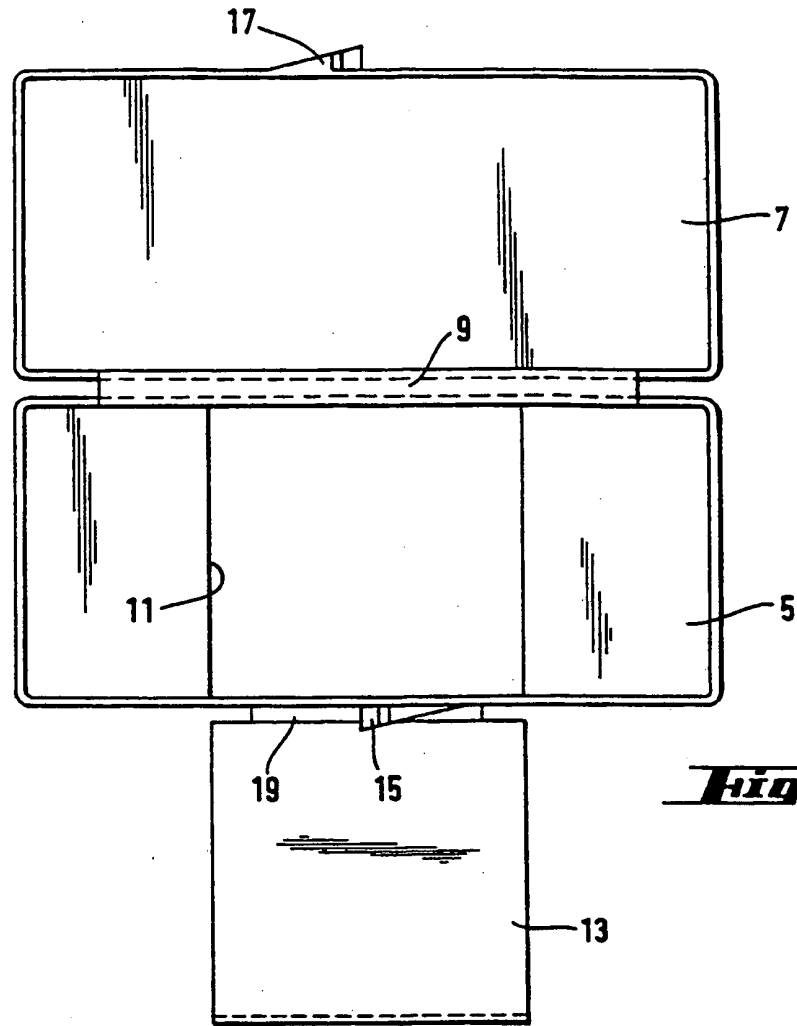


Fig. 7

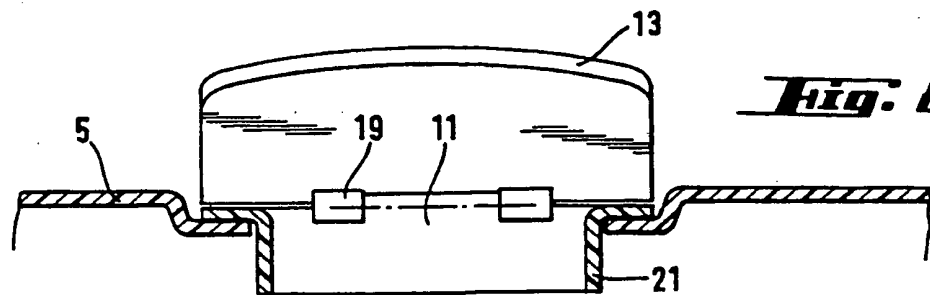


Fig. 8

